

Appln. No. 09/863,169
Response

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested. No claims are currently being amended, canceled or added. Thus, claims 21-28 are pending in the application.

Advisory Action Requested

If this response does not result in a Notice of Allowance, Applicant hereby requests a timely Advisory Action

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 21-28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,227,968 to Suzuki et al. ("Suzuki"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants' independent claim 21 recites "means for analyzing an audio signal" and "means for generating an image based on a result of an analysis of said audio signal". Applicants' independent claims 23, 25 and 27 include similar language. Applicants assert that Suzuki does not disclose generating an image based on a result of an analysis of said audio signal.

Specifically, the Examiner asserts that Suzuki's col. 7, lines 16-34 discloses means for analyzing an audio signal and that Suzuki's col. 8, lines 36-38 discloses means for generating an image based on a result of an analysis of said audio signal. But Suzuki discloses no arrangement for analyzing an audio signal. Instead, Suzuki's music data (performance data of each piece of music), which the Examiner alleges corresponds to Applicants' claimed "audio signal", is stored in a performance data memory 104 and directly output to speakers 6. (See Suzuki,

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col. 7, lines 18-24). Suzuki is silent about analysis of the music data.

As the Examiner points out, Suzuki discloses storing stepping position indication data corresponding to rhythm, such as the number of beats, and that a dance image is displayed. (See Suzuki, col. 7, lines 25-30, and col. 8, lines 36-38). However, Suzuki's music data and stepping position indication data are pre-stored in memories 104, 105, respectively. (See Suzuki, col. 7, lines 18-21 and lines 25-30). The stepping position indication data are not generated based on the music data. In other words, the music data and the stepping position indication data are processed separately. This arrangement is different from that of Applicants' claim 21 in which an audio signal is analyzed to generate an image based on a result of an analysis of the audio signal.

Therefore, in Applicants' independent claims an audio signal is analyzed and then an image is generated based on a result of the analysis of the audio signal. In contrast, in Suzuki the music data from the memory 104 is selected and then output to speakers 7 separately from the stepping position indication data being replaced with image data (the stepping position indication marks) and displayed on a display surface 31.

Because Suzuki does not disclose or suggest the limitations of Applicants' independent claims 21, 23, 25 and 27, the rejections of all of Applicants' claims must be withdrawn.

No Fees Believed to be Due

No extra claims fees are believed to be due.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the above amendments and remarks place the pending claims in a condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. However, should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned at (858) 552-1311 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Date: 7/29/05

Respectfully submitted,



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